

CORONER'S JURY BRINGS IN PECULIAR VERDICT

A workingman, Kasper Bazik of 1510 W. Erie st., stuck a revolver to his head and pulled the trigger Wednesday night.

A coroner's jury yesterday listened to the workingman's wife testify. She said Bazik had a father and brother in the Austrian army and he worried a lot about the human storm of death sweeping Europe.

Besides the war, he was worried by toothache. Being only a common laborer, Bazik didn't have money to hire dentists to drill, fill and shape his chewing tools. He let his teeth go without care. Pain racked his head.

However, according to jurors working under one of Coroner Pete Hoffman's deputies yesterday, it wasn't the war nor the toothache that made Bazik crazy so he shot himself. It was socialism, reading Socialist books and thinking socialism, that caused the insanity that caused the suicide.

"I understand your husband was a Socialist," a juror asked. "Might that have affected his mind?"

"He read a good deal about socialism," said Mrs. Bazik. "I don't know. Maybe it worked on his mind."

So the jurors on the basis of a woman's guess that maybe her husband read too much on socialism voted a verdict that Bazik killed himself "while despondent and temporarily insane" and the insanity was "caused by reading books on socialism."

Leslie H. Marcey, managing editor International Socialist Review, said today that a jury rendering such a verdict is "bugs."

"Men who would vote such a verdict are bugs," said Marcey. "It would be equally logical for me, if I should be sitting on a coroner's jury, to ask which capitalist newspaper the dead man had read and then in the verdict blame the insanity on the Tribune, the Hearst papers or the Daily News, all depending on what

kind of daily dope the victim had indulged in.

"There are Socialist books honestly facing certain terrible problems. It is true that these problems sometimes drive men insane. It is not the Socialist treatment of those problems that causes insanity, however.

"If a Catholic or a Methodist killed himself while despondent from brooding over the sins of the world, would it be right to lay the blame on Catholic or Methodist books the man had been reading?"

"Take the coal game as shown the past week. It takes a strong clear head to honestly face the robbery and hypocrisy behind it. A wage raise is granted the miners. Then the price of coal is raised 15 cents a ton by all Illinois coal operators.

"The higher wages to be paid the mine workers will be squeezed by force from the millions of workingmen who must buy coal to keep their houses warm and run their cook stoves."

HOME RULE COMMISSION TO PUSH INQUIRY

The legislative commission on the question of home rule and public utilities will go ahead with its probe at an early date, according to Representative Medill McCormick, who is now in Washington. An enterprising citizen recently went all the way up to the supreme court to prove that the commission didn't have the power to subpoena witnesses, so the com'n will go ahead as best it can, relying on volunteers. Sam Insull, McCormick says, is going to give the data requested about electric and gas corporations.

Dr. Jos. Slattery, Guardian of Liberty lecturer, spoke in First Immanuel Norwegian and Danish church, Kimball and Wrightwood, when door of Logan Sq. Auditorium and Wicker Park hall were closed on him.

Lone bandit got \$21 from Catherine Tolcham, took at 3412 N. Clark,